

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONO HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING1971

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, CH, US

SUBJECT SEPTEMBER 6 CALL ON NCNA DIRECTOR CHU MU-CHIH

1. SUMMARY. DURING MY THIRTY MINUTE COURTESY CALL ON MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 6, NCNA DIRECTOR CHU MU-CHIH REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT INCREASING CONTACTS BETWEEN AMERICAN AND CHINESE, INDICATED A DESIRE TO MODERNIZE NCNA OPERATIONS, ASKED RHETORICALLY "WHY CAN'T WE LEARN FROM GOOD FOREIGN THINGS?", AND OFFERED HIS "HOPE" THAT SINO-US RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP ON THE BASIS OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE DESPITE REMAINING "PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED". END SUMMARY.

2. NCNA DIRECTOR CHU MU-CHIH WAS CORDIAL AND UPBEAT DURING MY THIRTY MINUTE COURTESY CALL ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 6. RESPONDING TO MY EXPRESSION OF PLEASURE AT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF AMERICAN PRESSVISITORS TO THE PRC, CHU DECLARED "WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE SO MANY AMERICAN FRIENDS
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VISITING US ... IT IS A GOOD THING TO HAVE MORE CONTACT WITH AMERICAN FRIENDS... THE MORE CONTACTS WE HAVE, THE GREATER THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER." LATER IN THE SESSION CHU ALLUDED TO HIS OWN LEARNING EXPERIENCE AS LEADER OF A PRESS DELEGATION TO THE US THREE YEARS AGO, REITERATED HIS SATISFACTION IN THE GROWING TWO-WAY EXCHANGE OF VISITORS, AND ASKED RHETORICALLY "WHY CAN'T WE LEARN FROM

GOOD FOREIGN THINGS?"

3. WHEREAS THE GANG OF FOUR HAD MADE IMPOSSIBLE THE STUDY OF FOREIGN THINGS -- LET ALONE THE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY -- THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP WAS QUITE PREPARED, CHU IMPLIED, TO MAKE USE OF "GOOD FOREIGN THINGS" IN ITS PURSUIT OF THE "FOUR MODERNIZATIONS" BY THE YEAR 2000. NCNA ALSO HAD A DESIRE TO MODERNIZE. HE ADDED.

4. TOWARD THE END OF THE SESSION CHU EXPRESSED HIS "HOPE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL DEVELOP ON THE BASIS OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE". WITHOUT CITING SPECIFICS, HE ADDED "OF COURSE THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED. I HOPE THAT MR. WOODCOCK WILL PLAY A PART (IN SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS)."

5. CHU OFFERED A BRIEF AND UNEXCEPTIONAL INTRODUCTION TO NCNA HISTORY AND CURRENT OPERATIONS. IN THE COURSE OF THIS BRIEFING HE INDICATED THAT NCNA JOURNALISTS ARE NOW RESIDENT IN MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES, THAT NCNA HAS A STAFF OF SOME 5000 INCLUDING EMPLOYEES OF SUBSIDIARY UNITS SUCH AS PHOTO PROCESSING PLANTS AND SMALL PRINTING PLANTS, AND THAT STANKAO HSIAOHSI (REFERENCE NEWS) HAS A DAILY CIRCULATION OF 8 MILLION. (COMMENT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICIAL WANG CHI WAS ADVISED LAST MONTH BY PEOPLE'S DAILY OFFICIALS THAT THE REFERENCE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEWS CIRCULATION NOW STANDS AT 9 MILLION COPIES). CHU DODGED QUESTIONS ON HOW POLICY AND PRIORITIES ARE SET IN CHINESE JOURNALISM.

6. AT THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION CHU REVEALED THAT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DELEGATION NOW VISITING THE PRC AT THE INVITATION OF NCNA WOULD MEET TENG HSIAO-PING THAT AFTERNOON. (COMMENT: THE DELEGATION WILL STOP BY AT USLO THIS EVENING. THEIR OBSERVATIONS WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL). NCNA INTERNATIONAL DIVISION DIRECTOR HSIEH WEN-CH'ING, WHO SAT IN ON MY CALL, HAS ACCOMPANIED THE AP DELEGATION DURING ITS VISITS IN PEKING.

7. IN THE COURSE OF THE CALL I NOTED THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO A TIME WHEN A PERMANENT AMERICAN PRESS CORPS IS BASED IN PEKING. I ALSO OBSERVED THAT I FELT PROUD AS AN AMERICAN TO WITNESS THE RECENT HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION GIVEN AMERICAN SCIENTISTS OF CHINESE ORIGIN SUCH AS YANG CHEN-NING, NIU MAN-CHIANG, AND TING CHAO-CHUNG. CHU LET BOTH REMARKS PASS WITHOUT COMMENT.
WOODCOCK

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